

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130149
ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-02 /030 R

DRAFTED BY CA:SCS:FXLAMBERT:SAS
APPROVED BY CA:BMWATSON
SCS - AAGISE
CA - RTHENNEMEYER
-----083694 230433Z /14

P 222337Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 130149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, UK

SUBJECT: REDUCING CONSULAR WORKLOADS: MONTHLY PRISON VISITS

REF: LONDON 7803

1. DEPARTMENT VERY MUCH APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR RESCHEDULING PRISON VISITATIONS FROM MONTHLY TO QUARTERLY INTERVALS. WE ARE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE RATIONALE THAT VISITATIONS AT LONGER THAN MONTHLY INTERVALS WOULD PERMIT CONSULAR OFFICERS TO PROVIDE MORE MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE TO AMCIT PRISONERS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR ARREST AND DURING THEIR PRETRIAL AND APPEAL STAGES WHEN THEY ARE MOST IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

2. GIVEN THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR DISTRICT, THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO WAIVE THE MONTHLY PRISON VISITATION REQUIREMENT AND TO SUBSTITUTE FOR IT BIMONTHLY VISITATIONS BEGINNING JUNE 1. IF AFTER A YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH BI-
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MONTHLY VISITATIONS THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE CONVINCED THAT THE QUALITY OF SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZEN PRISONERS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AT ITS PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OR IMPROVED, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO SCHEDULING VISITATIONS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS THE EMBASSY TO DEVISE A

METHOD WHEREBY IN THE MONTH THAT NO VISIT IS SCHEDULED TO A PRISON A CONSULAR OFFICER CONTACT AMERICAN PRISONERS THERE BY TELEPHONE TO ASCERTAIN THAT THEY ARE WELL AND NEED NO IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE. IF PRISON REGULATIONS PRECLUDE DIRECT TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES, PERHAPS AN ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY THE CONSULAR OFFICER COULD CONTACT THE INSTITUTION'S SOCIAL WORKER FOR THE SAME PURPOSES.

4. THE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT WHEN A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITS NEWLY ARRESTED AMERICANS OR DURING THEIR PRETRIAL OR APPEAL STAGES, HE OR SHE ALSO MEET WITH ANY OTHER AMERICAN PRISONERS THAT MAY BE INCARCERATED IN THE SAME INSTITUTION IF THAT IS FEASIBLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE130149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCS:FXLAMBERT:SAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0417
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780532/aaaabapq.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9ab0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 7803
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2612210
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDUCING CONSULAR WORKLOADS: MONTHLY PRISON VISITS
TAGS: CGEN, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9ab0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014